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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Foreign Agricultural Service
Washington 25, D.C.

Statement of John H. Reisner at Conference for

Agricultural Services in Foreign Areas

Washington, D. C. - February 9, 1955

What Private Organizations have learned about Doing Technical Cooperation Work.

1. That the villager's life is a unity in which the economic, social and religious are closely integrated. We must understand all the factors in that unity.
2. That we recognize clearly the place that religious beliefs play in the villager's life and that they are often major deterring factors to better agriculture and better living.
3. That a comprehensive approach to the villager's needs is necessary. Increasing production is not enough.
4. That agriculture is usually a family affair and that any successful program must include the whole family. We neglect the women and the youth to the peril of our long term objectives.
5. That the farmer has an intelligent understanding of most of his problems. He doesn't need someone to come in and tell him he needs more land or fertilizers or better seeds. He wants to know how he can get help - in ways that do not conflict with his years of experience.
6. That it is unwise to underestimate the intelligence of village people. They may seem ignorant and uncooperative but for the circumstances of their lives, they would have been teachers, doctors, merchants, judges, premiers.
7. That it is much more profitable to work with villagers than for them.
8. That our attitudes must be those of respect and understanding--never those of superiority and pity.
9. That if the villager hasn't learned, we haven't taught.
10. That our programs have not fully succeeded if to our contribution of better crops, better animals, better health, better homes, we have not contributed--
 - (a) to the individual's freedom to think for himself, to make his own decisions and to act on them;
 - (b) to the villager's personal independence (if the villager has become dependent on us we have failed);
 - (c) to human dignity;
 - (d) to a sense of community responsibility.



